

CONFIDENTIAL.To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication as follows:-MORNING PAPERS .. WEDNESDAY, 11th APRIL, 1934.EVENING PAPERS .. WEDNESDAY, 11th APRIL, 1934.EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Statistics from various sources, which offer some indication of the change in the intensity of unemployment, and in the volume of factory employment, are made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E. T. McPhee).

I. UNEMPLOYMENT, 1st QUARTER, 1934.

The figures relating to unemployment are similar to those published quarterly in the past, and are derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The number of trade unionists represented in the returns from which the following figures have been derived is normally about half the total. Generally, it may be said that the returns of unemployment include little information about rural employment, so that the percentage results given herein do not vary greatly with the season. The total unemployment in the country, however, may be affected a good deal by the crop seasons.

The percentages of unemployment in reporting Trade Unions for each quarter since the beginning of 1931 are as follows:-

1931	1st Quarter	..	..	25.8	per cent.
	2nd "	..	..	27.6	" "
	3rd "	..	..	28.3	" "
	4th "	..	..	28.0	" "
1932	1st "	..	..	28.3	" "
	2nd "	..	..	30.0	" "
	3rd "	..	..	29.6	" "
	4th "	..	..	28.1	" "
1933	1st "	..	..	26.5	" "
	2nd "	..	..	25.7	" "
	3rd "	..	..	25.1	" "
	4th "	..	..	23.0	" "
1934	1st "	..	..	21.9	" "

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of February, 1934.

The percentages given above show the almost continuous rise in unemployment up to the 2nd Quarter of 1932, which had been uninterrupted since 1929. After remaining fairly constant at 28.0 per cent. to 28.3 per cent. for three quarters - from August, 1931, to February, 1932 - the maximum point was reached in May, 1932, when the proportion of unemployment in the reporting Trade Unions was 30 per cent. of the membership.

From the apex the proportion of unemployed decreased by 4 per thousand in the third quarter of 1932, and in the two quarters following the improvement was much more marked, amounting to 15 per 1,000 in the fourth quarter of 1932, and to 16 per 1,000 in the first quarter of 1933. The improvement continued, though at a reduced rate, until it became 21.9 per cent. for February, 1934. This is the lowest percentage of unemployment since August, 1930, when it was 20.5 per cent. Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 8.1 per cent., or 81 per 1,000 members - from 30.0 to 21.9 per cent. in February, 1934.

This improvement since the 2nd quarter of 1932 has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1,000 members):- Western Australia, 108; Tasmania, 97; Victoria, 91; New South Wales, 74; South Australia, 63; Queensland, 62. The more recent improvement during the 1st quarter of 1934 over the previous quarter was also general throughout the States, in the following order:- Improvement per 1,000 members - Victoria, 13; New South Wales, 12; Western Australia, 10; Tasmania, 5; South Australia, 4; Queensland, 1.

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Among the industrial groups, those showing the greatest improvement per 1,000 members since the peak in 1932 are:- Other Manufacturing (undefined), 162; Building, 113; Engineering and Metal Working, 91; Wood, Furniture, etc., 79; Land Transport, (other than Railways and Tramways), 75; Clothing, hats, boots, etc., 66; Mines and Quarries, 63; Miscellaneous, 55; Books, Printing, etc., 50; and Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc., 39.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

UNEMPLOYMENT - AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed - 1st Quarter, 1929; and 2nd Quarter, 1932, to 1st Quarter, 1934.

AUSTRALIA	1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	1st Quarter 1933	2nd Quarter 1933	3rd Quarter 1933	4th Quarter 1933	1st Quarter 1934
Number of Unions ..	375	396	394	394	394	394	394
Membership .. ..	420,756	413,742	412,674	415,559	416,426	416,560	422,056
Unemployed - Number ..	39,159	124,068	109,182	106,652	104,560	95,745	92,297
Percentage	9.3	30.0	26.5	25.7	25.1	23.0	21.9

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions returned as Unemployed in each State for the 1st Quarter, 1929; 2nd Quarter, 1932, to 1st Quarter, 1934.

State	1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	1st Quarter 1933	2nd Quarter 1933	3rd Quarter 1933	4th Quarter 1933	1st Quarter 1934
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales ..	9.7	33.2	30.2	29.6	28.8	27.0	25.8
Victoria .. ..	8.6	27.7	23.9	23.0	22.5	19.9	18.6
Queensland .. ..	7.1	19.9	16.7	15.6	15.1	13.8	13.7
South Australia ..	13.2	35.2	30.5	30.0	30.3	28.9	28.5
Western Australia ..	8.5	30.3	27.1	26.0	25.6	20.5	19.5
Tasmania .. ..	8.7	27.4	19.8	19.0	19.2	18.2	17.7
AUSTRALIA ..	9.3	30.0	26.5	25.7	25.1	23.0	21.9

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - Australia - 1st Quarter, 1929; 2nd Quarter, 1932, to 1st Quarter, 1934.

Industrial Group	1st Quarter 1929	2nd Quarter 1932	1st Quarter 1933	2nd Quarter 1933	3rd Quarter 1933	4th Quarter 1933	1st Quarter 1934
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	6.5	39.6	36.2	35.3	34.8	32.9	31.7
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. .. ..	11.2	33.9	30.2	30.0	28.6	25.8	24.8
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco &c.	5.4	19.4	16.6	16.7	18.1	16.5	15.5
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots &c.	9.8	22.6	17.1	17.4	19.1	16.1	16.0
V. Books, Printing, etc.	2.6	16.8	15.8	15.9	15.5	13.2	11.8
VI. Other Manufacturing	13.8	43.0	37.8	35.9	32.9	30.4	26.8
VII. Building ..	10.6	42.1	38.7	36.6	35.1	32.2	30.8
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	13.2	34.2	29.1	28.1	29.0	29.1	27.9
X. Land Transport, other than Railway and Tramway Services ..	7.6	29.6	27.1	25.4	24.8	23.0	22.1
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV, Other and Miscellaneous	7.3	22.2	19.9	19.2	18.8	17.1	16.7
TOTAL ..	9.3	30.0	26.5	25.7	25.1	23.0	21.9



Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups -  
STATES.

1st Quarter, 1934.

Industrial Group	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	AUST.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	29.4	35.2	18.0	45.3	29.8	19.1	31.7
II. Engineering, Metal Works etc.	26.9	23.2	13.8	36.1	19.4	13.4	24.8
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	19.5	10.0	18.6	12.9	12.0	13.8	15.5
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	27.4	8.2	9.9	29.2	28.2	5.3	16.0
V. Books, Printing, etc.	17.2	6.5	6.0	18.9	15.0	10.0	11.8
VI. Other Manufacturing	35.1	19.3	6.5	22.6	16.2	23.9	26.8
VII. Building ..	30.5	29.2	28.8	46.2	21.9	45.2	30.8
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	28.4	20.9	20.1		18.2	30.4	27.9
X. Land Transport, other than Railway and Tramway Services	28.6	18.1	8.4	37.8	26.9	28.4	22.1
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV, Other and Miscellaneous	21.1	14.8	9.8	10.8	13.4	14.0	16.7
ALL GROUPS ..	25.8	18.6	13.7	28.5	19.5	17.7	21.9

II. EMPLOYMENT.

As a supplement to the figures of unemployment given above, some figures indicating the changes in employment in factories are given below for four States. The figures for New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia have been supplied by the Government Statisticians for those States, (for convenience of comparison the figures for New South Wales have been converted to a percentage basis) while the figures for Queensland have been taken from the "Economic News" issued by the Queensland Bureau of Industry. Similar figures are not available for Victoria or Tasmania.

The figures given immediately below for New South Wales are based on 42 factories representing about 11 per cent. of all factory employment in that State; the South Australian figures are based on not less than 50 per cent. of all factory employment; while Western Australian figures cover 35 per cent. of all persons similarly employed.

INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

Base.-- New South Wales and South Australian results are shown as percentages on the numbers employed in January, 1930; Western Australian figures are related to the average monthly employment for the year 1929-30.

No allowance has been made in the following figures for increased population.

Month	New South Wales	South Australia	Western Australia
January, 1930 ..	100	100	100(a)
January, 1931 ..	75	71	(b)
January, 1932 ..	76	70	65
January, 1933 ..	84	80	82
February, " ..	87	84	83
March, " ..	86	86	83
April, " ..	87	89	84
May, " ..	87	86	80
June, " ..	86	84	80
July, " ..	89	87	79
August, " ..	90	87	83
September, " ..	93	87	85
October, " ..	95	88	87
November, " ..	97	91	89
December, " ..	96	91	91

(a) Base - Year 1929-30.

(b) Not available.

A more recent investigation by the Government Statistician of New South Wales, which was extended to 98 of the larger factories, indicates that there were 41,614 employees on the pay sheets in the middle week of December, 1933, compared with 38,923 in the corresponding week of 1932, and 34,399 in 1931. This represents an increase in factory employment of 21 per cent. in two years and is slightly lower than the figures obtained from the 42 factories referred to above.

QUEENSLAND. (From "Economic News").

Employment and Unemployment - Men Wage-Earners.

(Full-time, including its equivalent in "rationed" employment and unemployment).

Period	Percentage of all who are dependent on employment		Approximate number (including the equivalent of rationing)	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Average 1929 ..	89.9	10.1	148,340	16,660
" 1930 ..	86.4	13.6	144,630	22,850
" 1931 ..	77.2	22.8	131,270	38,730
" 1932 ..	77.8	22.2	134,130	38,320
" 1933 ..	79.8	20.2	139,720	35,310
3 months ended -				
March, 1933 ..	78.2	21.8	136,290	37,990
June, " ..	79.0	21.0	138,190	36,730
September, 1933	79.8	20.2	140,040	35,540
December, "	82.2	17.8	144,920	31,310
January, 1934	80.8	19.2	142,640	33,810

The Director of the Queensland Bureau of Industry makes the following comment:- "Improvement continued in private employment, but in less degree, and was offset by a contraction in Government employment, probably temporary in nature.

(Source:- Unemployment Insurance Contributions, etc., wages paid from the Unemployment Relief Tax Fund, etc.)

BUILDING PERMITS.

A further index of the relative activity in industry is furnished by Building Permits issued, and the estimated cost of the proposed buildings and repairs.

The following table gives details of the value of Building Permits issued in the Six Capital Cities and Suburbs of the Commonwealth for the periods shown.

Year		New Dwellings	Other New Buildings	Alterations & Additions	Total Value All Building Operations
		£	£	£	£
1928	..	17,547,932	4,923,432	873,282	23,344,646
1929	..	15,165,875	4,443,784	931,410	20,541,069
1930	..	4,454,429	1,881,174	1,190,754	7,526,357
1931	..	1,249,421	1,818,764	1,128,938	4,197,123
1932	..	2,414,454	1,710,965	1,680,796	5,806,215
1933	..	4,272,974	1,979,095	2,368,824	8,620,893
1931	4th Qtr.	326,546	152,186	235,760	714,492
1932	" "	781,680	329,055	564,679	1,675,414
1933	" "	1,246,137	742,899	613,759	2,602,795

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,

CANBERRA, F.C.T.

6th April, 1934.